

*The President.* Do I need to say it again, then? Surely you watched it. [Laughter]

*Q.* Tommy Franks is going to call the shots? [Laughter]

*The President.* Tommy—no, listen, we set clear objectives here in Washington. We gave our military what they needed to achieve the objectives. And when those objectives are met, we will hear from our commanders on the ground that they have been met. And that's when the so-called "victory declaration" will come forth.

*Q.* Mr. President, will you go on national television when the time is right?

*The President.* I'm on national television right this second. And it's an honor to be here on national television. And it's a great day to be on national television—seven Americans are alive. Seven people who were missing are now alive. And I am so pleased for their families and loved ones. It is—Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters], have you got anything?

#### *Syria/North Korea*

*Q.* Yes, sir. Now that there's a vacancy on the axis of evil, is Syria a good candidate?

*The President.* We will deal with each situation as it arises. We're making progress on the Korean Peninsula. Everybody knows our position, which is that we expect there to be a nuclear-weapons-free Peninsula. The good news is it's a position shared by the Chinese; it's a position shared by the South Koreans; and it's a position shared by the Japanese. So we've got common interests, and working together, I am very hopeful we'll be able to achieve those interests diplomatically.

Have a great day. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:53 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House upon returning from Camp David, MD. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Supplemental Budget Request for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

*April 11, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). This request would provide an additional \$18.3 million to the EEOC in FY 2003. It is needed for the EEOC to avoid furloughing its entire workforce for as many as 19 days in FY 2003, which would significantly disrupt its ability to conduct its enforcement responsibilities.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 14.